



THE HISTORY CHANNEL® PRESENTS:

The Revolution: The End Game
Part 10 of a 13 part original series

The American Revolution laid the foundation for the success of the United States, yet the viability of the nation was not always imminent and the quest for liberty was no simple endeavor. As the Colonists found themselves becoming increasingly independent, the fiercest and most powerful army in the world stood between them and a free, independent, sovereign America. Small skirmishes between colonists and representatives of the British throne escalated in 1775. In order to pacify what he viewed as a small rebellion, the King sent a contingent of Red Coats from the seemingly omnipotent British Army across the Atlantic Ocean. However, as the days and months progressed, the Red Coats, their military leaders and King George III himself eventually realized the ferocity, courage and collective will of the colonists they faced. A Revolution was underway.

The Revolution: The End Game documents the final months of the War of Independence. Washington's troops – underpaid and overworked – are on the edge of mutiny. As the months drag on, it becomes increasingly apparent that time running out in the race to win the war. The old saying becomes apparent, desperate times call for desperate measures. The war in the south presses on, as Greene leads his rival Cornwallis in a chase deeper and deeper into the backcountry. At the Virginia border, Greene makes a deft conceptual move, one which will buy him the time he needs. *The End Game* chronicles the events leading up to the end of the Revolution, culminating in Washington's great victory at Yorktown. Washington the general must now refine himself into Washington the statesman, as he prepares to face the fresh challenges that accompany American independence.

Curriculum Links

The Revolution: The End Game would be useful for high school and middle school classes on United States History, Military History, European History, and Colonial History. Teachers may want to use clips from this documentary to supplement their lesson plans related to the American Revolution, or show one episode in this series in its entirety in order to highlight one phase in the Revolutionary era. This documentary fulfills several National Standards guidelines as outlined by the National Council for History Education including: (1) Values, Beliefs, Political Ideas and Institutions, (2) Conflict and Cooperation, (3) Patterns of Social and Political Interaction and (4) Comparative History of Major Developments.

Vocabulary

Using the dictionary at www.merriamwebster.com, an internet resource such as www.history.com, or an encyclopedia, students should define or explain the significance of the following terms:

cessation	euphoric	magnanimous
conflagration	fervor	precarious
dissolution	innocuous	sedition
encumbered	insurgent	venerable

Fun Facts

DID YOU KNOW that when George Washington was inaugurated for his first term as president in 1789, he had only one natural tooth remaining? He was wearing his first full set of dentures made by John Greenwood, which had a base of hippopotamus ivory carved to fit the gums.

WERE YOU AWARE that Charles Cornwallis' deputy at first attempted to surrender to the French General Rochambeau, who is reputed to have said, "You are mistaken, the general of our army is to the right," pointing to George Washington. The lieutenant then attempted to surrender to Washington, who refused because it was not Cornwallis himself, and indicated that the subordinate should surrender to General Lincoln, Washington's least favorite general because he had botched the southern campaign. Cornwallis' lieutenant ceremonially offered his sword to Lincoln, which was ironically refused. All other British troops were required to surrender and trample their firearms in the custom of the time.

IT IS TRUE that Admiral de Grasse, despite spending 2 months in American water, never actually set foot on American soil. He is however still ranked alongside the Marquis de Lafayette and the Comte de Rochambeau as a Frenchman who contributed to the American victory.

Comprehension Questions

1. Why did Washington find himself on the verge of mutiny during the phase of the Revolution covered in this documentary? What was his response to the rebellion at Pompton, New Jersey? In what ways was it perceptive?
2. What were Greene's tactics when faced with the relentless Cornwallis and his troops? Why were they necessary if the Continentals were to win?
3. What was the daring move that Greene made when he reached the border with Virginia? What impact did it have upon the outcome of the chase? Why was it a valuable victory for Greene?
4. Why was Benjamin Franklin caught in a precarious situation? What were Washington's concerns and how were they answered? Were France's concerns completely allied to those of Greene?
5. Why did Greene seek confrontation with Cornwallis at Guilford Courthouse? What was the outcome? Why was the victory ambiguous?
6. What was public opinion back home in England? How was this reflected by the commanders in America?
7. What was Admiral DeGrasse's decision and why is it appropriate timing for it? What was the great decision that Washington subsequently makes, and why was he forced to make it?
8. What did Washington allow his son Jackie to do? How and why does this reflect a change of heart on his part?
9. How did Sir Henry Clinton's inactivity influence the events at Yorktown? What was Cornwallis's error of judgment? How did Washington take advantage of this?
10. What happened on October 19th, 1781? Who went missing, and why?
11. Why was the end of the war marked with personal loss for Washington? How did he and Cornwallis become equals? What were the challenges that Washington faced in the wake of the war?
12. At the moment in the Revolution that this documentary ends, what were the stakes in the conflict? Had they changed since the onset of the Revolution? Do you think the average soldier on both sides regretted getting involved, or were more committed than ever? Discuss.

Extended Activities

Face to Face

There is no record of what was said in the famous meeting between Cornwallis and Washington. Imagine you are a fly on the wall in their meeting. Write a 200-300 word essay on what you saw that day. Think about the emotions, the words and the overall composure of the two men.

Divided Loyalties

Washington's tactics to quell mutiny during the war might seem cruel, but they were clearly justified under military code. He sentenced the three ringleaders to death by firing squad. He then ordered the mutineers' twelve closest friends to carry out the execution. When the first six men deliberately aim off target, he threatens the second six

with their own lives. Imagine you are one of the latter six men. Write a 200-300 word diary entry, chronicling the events of that day. You might wish to consider the events immediately before and after the shooting, paying close attention to the impact that it has upon your relationship with the other mutineers.

Mapping the War

General Washington commanded Continental forces to victory in the Revolutionary War, but it was not without many casualties and trying winters. The last battles of the war were indeed difficult, but Cornwallis eventually had to surrender. On your own or in a group, research the last 5 major battles of the war and draw a map of troop movements, controlled areas, and key battle locations. Once completed, discuss with your group what you think General Washington's strategy was for ending the war.

Resources for Additional Information and Research

General Resources

The complete history of the American Revolution and the Revolutionary War
www.americanrevolution.com/Links.htm

Emory University's website with primary sources including documents, paintings and speeches regarding the American Revolution
<http://www.law.emory.edu/FEDERAL/conpict.html#const>

Maps from the Revolutionary War era
<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/gmdhtml/armhtml/armhome.html>

Military Resources on the American Revolution including digitized photographs of original paintings and drawings of battles
<http://www.archives.gov/research/american-revolution/pictures/index.html>

Online Resources for *The End Game*

A description of Admiral de Grasse's role in the American victory at Yorktown:
<http://www.americanrevolution.org/degrasse.html>

The Battle of Yorktown website: <http://battleofyorktown.com/>

Biography of Sir Henry Clinton:
<http://www.americanrevwar.homestead.com/files/CLINTON.HTM>

The Official White House biography of President George Washington:
<http://www.whitehouse.gov/history/presidents/gw1.html>

Book Resources for *The End Game*

Buchanan, John. *The Road to Guilford Courthouse: The American Revolution in the Carolinas*. Wiley, 1999.

Fitzpatrick, John C. Ed. *The Writings of George Washington from the Original Manuscript Sources, 1745-1799*. USGPO, 1931.

Golway, Terry. *Washington's General: Nathanael Greene and the Triumph of the American Revolution*. Henry Holt and Co., 2004.

Ketchum, Richard M. *Victory at Yorktown: The Campaign That Won the Revolution*. Henry Holt and Co., 2004.

Nash, Gary B. *The Unknown American Revolution: The Unruly Birth of Democracy and the Struggle to Create America*. Penguin, 2006.

Patterson, Benton Rain. *Washington and Cornwallis: The Battle for America, 1775-1783*. Taylor Trade Publishing, 2004.

Van Doren, Carl. *Mutiny in January*. Augustus M. Kelley Pubs, 1973.